

REMARKS

In a Final Office Action dated 28 July 2006, the Examiner objected to Claim 3, and rejected the remaining pending claims, Claims 12, 4-8, 10, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

In response to the Final Office Action dated 1 January 2006, Applicant hereby cancels the objected to Claim 3, and amends Claims 1, 4 - 7, and 11.

The amendment to Claim 1 incorporates the limitations of the cancelled Claim 3 into the independent claim from which it depends. In accord with the Examiner's objection, the independent claim is now in an allowable format. Other amendments address noted informalities in the inconsistent use of the limitations "first member" and "first tubular member" and "second member" and "second tubular member," harmonizing the use in favor of the latter of each pair.

CONCLUSION

Having suitably addressed all of the Examiner's rejections, the claims now stand in a condition for allowance. The Applicant requests that the Examiner address any questions to his attorney, the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}

Mark L. Lorbiecki
Registration No. 45,643
Direct Dial: 206.903.1800

25315

CUSTOMER NUMBER

- 5 -

APTC-I-1002ROA2

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}


701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301